1   37. (New)   A method according to claim 36, further comprising,

2   issuing a priority channel request to the servicing communication station if the result of

3   the comparison reveals that the received digits correspond to an emergency code.

3

1   38. (New)   A method according to claim 37, wherein the priority channel request denotes a

2   priority class of service that is greater than that of non-emergency telephone calls, such that the

3   servicing communication station reallocates communication channel parameters to facilitate the

4   priority channel request.

1   39. (New)   A method according to claim 38, wherein reallocation of communication channel

2   parameters include one or more of tearing down a lower priority communication channel to

3   facilitate the priority channel request, reallocation of bandwidth of one or more communication

4   channels to provide bandwidth to the priority channel request, modifying a spatial domain

5   multiple access (SDMA) reuse pattern to provide bandwidth for the priority channel request, and

6   the like.

Cont.

1   40. (New)   A method according to claim 35, wherein determining whether a communication

2   channel is available comprises:

3   receiving an off-hook detection signal at the transceiver;

4   issuing a channel request from the transceiver to the servicing communication station;

5   and

.6   receiving a response at the transceiver from the communication station to the channel

7   request denoting whether a communication channel is available.

1   41. (New)   A method according to claim 35, wherein the indication that all communication

2   channels are currently unavailable includes one or more of a fast busy signal, a null signal

3   (silence), a monotone signal, and/or any signal other than a dial tone.

1   42. (New)   A method according to claim 35, further comprising:

2   issuing a priority channel request to the servicing communication station if the subscriber

3   unit receives digits from the telephone interface denoting one or more emergency codes

4   associated with one or more emergency services.

1   43. (New)   A method according to claim 42, further comprising:

2   facilitating the emergency telephone call over a communication channel made available

3   by the communication station through call completion.

1   44. (New)   A method according to claim 35, further comprising:

2   converting dual-tone, multiple frequency (DTMF) tones received from the telephone

3   interface representing the telephone number entered by the user to digital signal(s) for the

4   transceiver.

45. (New)   A method according to claim 44, wherein said conversion is performed even if the subscriber unit receives an indication from the servicing communication station that all communication channels are currently unavailable.

46. (New)   A method according to claim 35, wherein the emergency codes are one or more of a telephone number, a speed-dial code and/or a shortened emergency services code.

47. (New)   An article of manufacture comprising a machine accessible storage medium to provide machine executable instructions which, when executed, cause a machine to implement a method according to claim 35.

48. (New)   A wireless local loop subscriber unit comprising:

a telephone interface, to enable a user to enter a telephone number to place a telephone call; and

a transceiver, coupled to the telephone interface, to accept entry of a telephone number entered by the user even after determining that no communication channels are currently available from a servicing communication station, and to issue a priority channel request to the communication station for a communication channel if the telephone number received from the telephone interface corresponds to one or more emergency services.

49. (New)   A wireless local loop subscriber unit according to claim 48, further comprising:

2   an off-hook signal generator, responsive to the telephone interface, to generate an off-

3   hook signal to prompt the transceiver to request a communication channel from the

4   communication station when the user lifts a handset of the telephone interface to place a call.

1   50. (New)   A wireless local loop subscriber unit according to claim 49, wherein the

2   transceiver responds to the off-hook signal by requesting a communication channel and

3   providing the telephone interface with an indication denoting whether a communication channel

4   is available from the communication station.

1   51. (New)   A wireless local loop subscriber unit according to claim 50, wherein the

2   transceiver provides one or more of a fast busy signal, a constant monotone signal, and/or any

3   tone other than a dial tone as an indication to the user via the telephone interface that no

4   communication channels are currently available to facilitate a telephone call.

1   52. (New)   A wireless local loop subscriber unit according to claim 48, further comprising:

2   a dual-tone, multiple frequency (DTMF) converter to convert DTMF signals generated by

3   the telephone interface representing the telephone number entered by the user in to digital signals

4   appropriate for input to the transceiver.

1   53. (New)   A wireless local loop subscriber unit according to claim 52, wherein the DTMF

2   converter remains enabled to receive and convert DTMF signals for the transceiver even if the

3   transceiver determines that no communication channels are currently available.

1   54. (New)   A wireless local loop subscriber unit according to claim 53, wherein the

2   transceiver receives and decodes the digital signals to determine whether the user is dialing an

3   emergency number, even if there are no communication channels available to support the call.

1   55. (New)   A wireless local loop subscriber unit according to claim 54, further comprising:

2   a memory device, to store one or more codes associated with an associated one or more

3   emergency services, wherein the transceiver compares received digital signals associated with a

4   user-entered telephone number against the stored one or more codes to determine whether the

5   user is telephone number is associated with the one or more emergency services.

1   56. (New)   A wireless local loop subscriber unit according to claim 55, wherein the

2   transceiver compares the digital signals associated with the user-entered telephone number

3   against the one or more codes on a digit-by-digit basis as the telephone number is entered.

1   57. (New)   A wireless local loop subscriber unit according to claim 48, the transceiver

2   comprising:

3   a memory, to receive and retain one or more codes associated an associated one or more

4   emergency services; and

5   a processor, coupled to the memory, to receive digital signals representative of the dialed

6   telephone number and compare the received signals to the one or more codes stored in memory

7   to detect telephone calls to the one or more emergency services.

1   58. (New)   A wireless local loop subscriber unit according to claim 48, further comprising:

2   an on-/off-hook detector, coupled between the telephone device and the transceiver, to

3   provide an off-hook indication to the transceiver when the user lifts a handset of the telephone

4   interface.

1   59. (New)   A wireless local loop communication system comprising:

2   a communication station, to communicatively couple the one or more wireless local loop

3   subscriber units to a wireline telephony network; and

4   a wireless local loop subscriber unit, communicatively coupled to the communication

5   station, to accept entry of a telephone number by a user via a telephone interface even after

6   determining that no communication channels are currently available between the subscriber and

7   the communication station, and to determine whether the telephone number entered corresponds

8   to one or more emergency services necessitating a priority channel request for a communication

9   channel if no communication channels are otherwise available.

1   60. (New)   A wireless local loop system according to claim 59, the wireless local loop

2   subscriber unit comprising:

3   a transceiver, coupled to the telephone interface, to accept the telephone number entered

4   by the user even after determining that no communication channels are currently available, and to

5   issue a priority channel request for a communication channel if the telephone number entered

6   corresponds to one or more stored emergency codes associated with a commensurate one or more

7   emergency services.

1   61. (New)   A wireless local loop system according to claim 60, wherein the transceiver issues

2   one or more priority channel request(s) to the communication station to obtain a communication

3   channel if no communication channels are otherwise available upon detecting entry by the user

4   of a code associated with an emergency service.

1   62. (New)   A wireless local loop system according to claim 60, wherein the stored codes

2   include one or more of a standard telephone number associated with a single emergency service,

3   a speed dial code, and/or a shortened telephone number to an agency serving multiple emergency

4   services.

1   63. (New)   A wireless local loop system according to claim 62, the subscriber unit further

2   comprising:

3   a memory device, coupled to the transceiver, to receive and retain one or more emergency

4   codes.

1   64. (New)   A wireless local loop system according to claim 59, the communication station

2   comprising:

3   a transceiver, to receive priority channel requests from one or more subscriber units and

4   modify one or more communication channel parameters to accommodate a priority channel

5   request when no communication channels are otherwise available.

1   65. (New)   A wireless local loop system according to claim 64, wherein the modification of

2   one or more communication channel parameters includes one or more of tearing down an

3   existing call to free the communication channel to accommodate the priority channel request,

4   lowering bandwidth associated with one or more communication channels to free bandwidth for

5   an additional communication channel to accommodate the priority channel request, and/or

6   modifying one or more spatial domain, multiple access (SDMA) reuse parameters to obtain a

7   communication channel to accommodate the priority channel request.

1   66. (New)   An article of manufacture comprising:

2   a machine accessible medium to provide instructions which, when executed by a wireless

3   local loop subscriber unit, cause the subscriber unit to determine whether a communication

4   channel is available at a servicing communication station to accommodate a telephone call upon

5   detecting an off-hook signal from a telephone interface, provide the telephone interface with an

6   indication denoting the unavailability of a communication channel if it is determined that the

7   communication station does not have a communication channel available, and enable receipt of

8   one or more digits of a telephone number from the telephone interface even if no communication

9   channels are available to determine whether a priority channel request is required to facilitate an

10   emergency telephone call.

1   67. (New)   An article of manufacture according to claim 66, further comprising instructions

2   which, when executed, cause a wireless local loop subscriber unit to compare each of the

3   received digits, as received, against one or more emergency codes maintained in the subscriber

4   unit to determine whether the received digits correspond to one or more emergency services

5   associated with the one or more emergency codes.

68. (New)   An article of manufacture according to claim 66, further comprising instructions which, when executed, cause the wireless local loop subscriber unit to issue a priority channel request upon detecting entry of an emergency code even if no communication channels are currently available.

69. (New)   An article of manufacture according to claim 68, wherein the priority channel request denotes a priority class of service that is greater than that of non-emergency telephone calls, such that the servicing communication station reallocates communication channel parameters to facilitate the priority channel request.

70. (New)   An article of manufacture according to claim 66, further comprising instructions which, when executed, cause a wireless local loop subscriber unit to facilitate an emergency telephone call through completion via a communication channel made available by the communication station in response to the subscriber units priority channel request.

71. (New)   An article of manufacture according to claim 66, further comprising instructions which, when executed, cause a wireless local loop subscriber unit to convert dual-tone, multiple frequency (DTMF) tones received from the telephone interface representing the telephone number entered by the user to digital signal(s), wherein said conversion is performed even if the subscriber unit receives an indication from the servicing communication station that all communication channels are currently unavailable.